

Message Text

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SUBJECT: BRUSSELS CONFERENCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN
COMMUNIST PARTIES

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA, ATHENS,
BERN, BONN, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, HELSINKI, LISBON, LONDON,
LUXEMBOURG, MADRID, MOSCOW, NICOSIA, OSLO, PARIS, ROME, STOCKHOLM
THE HAGUE, VIENNA, USMISSION EC BRUSSELS AND NATO BRUSSELS ON
JAN 30, 1974 BEING REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFO:

QUOTE

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SUBJECT: BRUSSELS CONFERENCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN
COMMUNIST PARTIES

REF: BRUSSELS 557 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PARTY LINE TO EMERGE
FROM THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN
COMMUNIST PARTIES IS THE CALL FOR UNITED CP ACTION WITH WESTERN
EUROPEAN SOCIALIST, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, TRADE UNION AND OTHER
PROGRESSIVE" AND "DEMOCRATIC" PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS,
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TO JUDGE FROM BELGIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF THE JANUARY

26-28 PROCEEDINGS. THE MAJOR CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS, A TWENTY-PAGE "POLITICAL DECLARATION", HAS NOT YET BEEN EXTENSIVELY SUMMARIZED OR ANALYZED. "LE SOIR S" COMMUNIST AFFAIRS EXPERT POL MATHIL (LEOPOLD UNGER), HOWEVER, BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED THE DECLARATION AND CHARACTERIZED IT AS BANAL, THE PROVERBIAL MOUSE PRODUCED BY THE MOUNTAIN S LABOR. END SUMMARY.

2. PARTICIPANTS. PARTIES FROM SOME 20 COUNTRIES WERE REPRESENTED, IN MOST CASES BY THEIR PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY GENERAL: FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, WEST BERLIN, CYPRUS, DENMARK, FINLAND, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, GREECE, IRELAND, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, THE NETHERLANDS, PORTUGAL, SAN MARINO, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND TURKEY. THE NETHERLANDS PARTY HAD "OBSERVER" STATUS. NEITHER NORWAY NOR ICELAND WAS REPRESENTED. GREATLY DISPARATE IN IMPORTANCE, THE PARTIES REPRESENTED RANGED FROM SUCH GIANTS AS THE PCI WITH SOME 27 O/O OF ITALY S VOTE TO THE BELGIAN PARTY WITH 3.2 O/O OF THE BELGIAN VOTE (AND 5 SEATS IN A CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF 212). THE TOTAL OF ABOUT 80 PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL PARTY DELEGATIONS WAS OUTNUMBERED BY THE MORE THAN TWICE AS MANY NEWSMEN COVERING THE PROCEEDINGS.

3. DOCUMENTS. THE CONFEREES ISSUED A 20 PAGE POLITICAL DECLARATION ON JANUARY 29 AS ITS FINAL DOCUMENTS (SEE SEPTTEL). THE CONFEREES ADOPTED THREE SHORT RESOLUTIONS DEALING PROPAGANDISTICALLY WITH VIETNAM, CHILE AND THE PETROLEUM CRISIS IN EUROPE. MANY, IF NOT ALL, OF THE PARTY LEADERS DELIVERED SPEECHES FOR THE RECORD. PRESS CONFERENCES WERE HELD AND PRESS COMMENTS MADE IN THE COURSE OF TE PROCEEDINGS. ADVANCE PUBLICITY INCLUDED EXTENSIVE INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH PARTY SPOKESMEN SERGIO SEGRE AND JEAN KANAPA TO CORRESPONDENTS OF BRUSSELS "LE SOIR".

4. ISSUES. ISSUES DISCUSSED, SOMETIMES UNDER EUPHEMISTIC SUBJECT HEADINGS REQUIRED BY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNIST LEXICON, AND IN SOME CASES MORE PRIVATELY THAN PUBLICLY, INCLUDED:

- CP UNITY OF ACTION WITH SOCIAL AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS AND WITH NON-COMMUNIST TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS:
- CP POSITIONS TOWARD THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY:
- SOVIET-US DETENTE:
- ENERGY CRISIS:

-- SUCCESSIVE PAN-EUROPEAN AND WORLD CONFERENCES
OF COMMUNIST PARTIES:
-- STATUS OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS:
-- CHINA.

5. DIVERGENCIES. BELGIAN PRESS COVERAGE STRESSED THE ALMOST ENTHUSIASTIC ITALIAN APPROACH TOWARDS WORKING WITHIN THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE GRUDGING BUT STILL CLEAR APPROVAL OF THIS COURSE MANIFESTED BY THE FRENCH CP, AND THE NEGATIVE POSITION OF THE BRITISH CP. THE WEST GERMAN PARTY (REPRESENTED BY HERBERT MIES) AND THE GREEK CP (REPRESENTED ANONYMOUSLY) WERE SINGLED OUT AS AMONG THE HARDLINERS, AND THE SPANISH EXILES REPRESENTED BY SANTIAGO CARILLO AS INDEPENDENT-MINDED. THE HARDLINERS REPORTEDLY MENTIONED A FUTURE WORLD COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE BUT NOT A PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, AND CRITICIZED CHINA. SANTIAGO CARILLO SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF "THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ARTICULATION OF EUROPE", WHICH OBSERVERS INTERPRETED AS A PRO-COMMUNITY FORMULATION, AND REPORTEDLY TANGLED WITH GEORGES MARCHAIS OF THE PCF OVER THE ISSUE OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS. THE SWEDISH PARTY COULD NOT AGREE TO SIGN THE FINAL "POLITICAL DECLARATION". SEVERAL ORATORS MADE A VIRTUE OF NECESSITY AND SPOKE OF THE "UTILITY" OF HEARING ALL THE VIEWS EXPRESSED.

6. GENERAL. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS TERM THE MEETING A CONFERENCE OF "COMMUNIST PARTIES OF CAPITALIST EUROPE". THE POLITICAL DECLARATION SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO COMMON ACTION WITH "SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES". SEPARATE REFERENCE IS MADE TO "THE CHRISTIANS" AND "THE CHRISTIAN MOVEMENTS" AS BESET WITH PERPLEXITY
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AND INCREASINGLY ATTRACTED TO SOCIAL
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